



In Reply To:
1616.042

United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

HiLine District
1101 15th Street North
Great Falls, Montana 59403
<http://www.blm.gov/mt>



March 15, 2013

Dear Reader:

Enclosed for your review and comment is the Draft Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement (Draft RMP/EIS) for the HiLine District. The Draft RMP/EIS considers and analyzes five alternatives that address future management of approximately 2.4 million acres of BLM land and 3.8 million acres of federal minerals in northern Montana, with Alternative E identified as the agency's preferred alternative. While a preferred alternative has been identified, a final decision has not been made. The final decision, which will be documented in a Record of Decision, will be made only after consideration of the comments received on the Draft RMP/EIS and after a Proposed RMP/Final EIS has been released. The Draft RMP/EIS is available on the internet at <http://blm.gov/8qkd>.

Your review and comments are needed at this time to ensure that your input is adequately addressed in the planning process. The public review period for the Draft RMP/EIS is 90 days and will begin with publication of the Notice of Availability in the Federal Register by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Additional information on public meeting dates and times to discuss the plan and provide comments will be forthcoming in news releases after publication of the Federal Register notice. Written comments should be sent to the District Manager, Bureau of Land Management, 3990 Highway 2 West, Havre, MT 59501. All comments will be fully considered and evaluated in the preparation of the Proposed RMP/Final EIS, and all substantive comments will be addressed.

Comments will be most useful if they are specific, mention particular pages of the document where appropriate, and address one or more of the following:

- Identify inaccuracies or discrepancies in information
- Identify new information that would have a bearing on the analysis
- Identify new impacts, alternatives, or mitigation measures
- Make suggestions for improving management direction

Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment, including personal identifying information, may be made publicly available at any time. While individuals may request that the BLM withhold personal identifying information from public view, the BLM cannot guarantee it will be able to do so. If you wish us to withhold your personal information you must state this prominently at the beginning of your comment. We will make all submissions from organizations or businesses available for public disclosure in their entirety.

We appreciate your help in this planning effort and look forward to your continued interest and participation. For additional information or clarification regarding this document or the planning process, please contact Brian Hockett, Planning and Environmental Coordinator, at (406) 262-2837.

Sincerely,

Mark Albers
District Manager

